T.D. George: Fairbury House Builder

by Dale C. Maley

T.D. George was born in England in 1834. His full name was Thomas Dizy George. Per the 1900 U.S. census, T.D. George emigrated from England to America in 1860 at age 26.

On March 5, 1868, at the age of 34, he married Mary Ann Davies in Alan, Ohio. She was born April 16, 1836. She was 32 years old. Her parents were Henry Davies 1803-1849 and Mary Polly Evans 1811-unknown. Alan, Ohio, is in western middle Ohio.

The newlyweds promptly bought lot 12 in block 5 of the Isaac McDowell Addition to Fairbury on April 1, 1868 for $150. Since T.D. George was a builder, it is assumed he built a new house on this lot. The house is still standing today and is at the corner of Ash and 8th Street in Fairbury.

WARRANTY DEED.—E. Emery, Printer and Blank Book Manufacturer Pontiac Illinois

REVENUE STAMP To the amount of $ .50 ON THIS DEED.

This Indenture, Made this First day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight BETWEEN Robert B Kamma and Charlotte Kamma his wife of the County of Livingston and State of Illinois of the first part, and Thomas Dizy George of the County of Livingston and State of Illinois of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ha Granted, Bargained and Sold, and by these presents do Grant, Bargain and Sell unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, all the following described lot , piece , or parcel of land, situated in the Town of Fairbury in the County of Livingston and State of Illinois, to-wit:

Lot Number Twelve (12) in Block Number Five (5) of Isaac P. McDowells addition to the Town of Fairbury in the County of Livingston and State of Illinois

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances: To Have and to Hold the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns Forever. And the said Robt B Kamma and Charlotte Kamma his wife part y of the first part, hereby expressly waive , release and relinquish unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever in and to the above described premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of homesteads.

And the said Robt B Kamma and Charlotte Kamma his wife party of the first part, for theirs heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, that at the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents, they are well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, and in fee simple, and ha good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and encumbrances of what kind or nature soever, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

In Testimony Whereof, The said part y of the first part ha ve hereunto set their hand S and seal S the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF

Robert B. Kamma SEAL

Charlotte Kamma SEAL

SEAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS, Livingston County. } SS.

I, Elijah Plank a Notary Public of the Town of Fairbury in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Robert B Kamma and Charlotte Kamma his wife personally known to me as the same person S whose name S are subscribed to the annexed Deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument in writing as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth

And the said Charlotte Kamma wife of the said Robert B Kamma having been by me examined separate and apart, and out of the hearing of her husband, and the contents and meaning of the said instrument of writing having been by me fully made known and explained to her and she also by me being fully informed of her rights under the Homestead Laws of this State, acknowledged that she had freely and voluntarily executed the same and relinquished her dower to the lands and tenements therein mentioned, and also all her rights and advantages under and by virtue of all laws of this State relating to the Exemption of Homesteads, without compulsion of her said husband, and that she do not wish to retract the same.

Seal

Given under my hand and Notarial seal, this First day of April A. D. 1868

Elijah Plank Notary Public

Filed for Record on the 13 day of October A. D. 1869 at 11 o'clock, A M.

Recorder.

Mrs. George was a dress maker by trade. Mr. and Mrs. George raised two children that were relatives of Mrs. George. They were members of the Fairbury Presbyterian Church.

In 1871, T.D. George became the builder of the new home for Thomas A. Beach in Fairbury at 402 East Hickory. This home is on the National Register of Historic Homes and has two lion statues in the front yard. T.D. George was 37 years old when he built the Thomas A. Beach home.

Thomas A. Beach was a very wealthy businessman and banker. He was born in 1828 in Canaan, Ohio, just south of Cleveland. By the time of his death, he had accumulate land and money worth about $50 million in 2014 dollars. Thomas A. Beach's daughter, Ella Beach, married Dr. George Lewis. Their daughter was Alma Lewis - James, who wrote the book on Fairbury history from 1850 to 1900 titled ***Stuffed Clubs and Antimacassars***.

It is unknown how T.D. George became the builder of Thomas A. Beach's home. Thomas A. Beach was from Ohio, and had a huge family back in Ohio. T.D. George married a girl from Ohio. Maybe the Beach family in Ohio knew T.D. George. Maybe T.D. George just came to Fairbury because it was a relatively new town needing a lot of houses built.

It is believed that T.D. George lived in Fairbury from 1868 until 1902. While he was in Fairbury, he also built the Bert Slaughter home at 608 East Ash Street. The home is commonly called the Castle house, because of its appearance. It is also located in the Isaac McDowell Addition to Fairbury, the same area where T.D. George bought the lot 12 for $150 in 1868. It is unknown what year this home was built.

Bert Slaughter was a very successful salesman and businessman in Fairbury. His businesses included the Illinois, Card & Novelty Co. of Fairbury. He was born October 5, 1876. If he built this home when he was 30 years old, it would have been built around 1906.

In 1871, while he was building the Thomas A. Beach home, T.D. George acted as a legal witness to a U.S. patent issued to Thomas F. Kiff titled ***Improvement to Hand Trucks***.

Thomas F. Kiff Hand Truck.

116325

PATENTED JUN 27 1871

Fig 1.

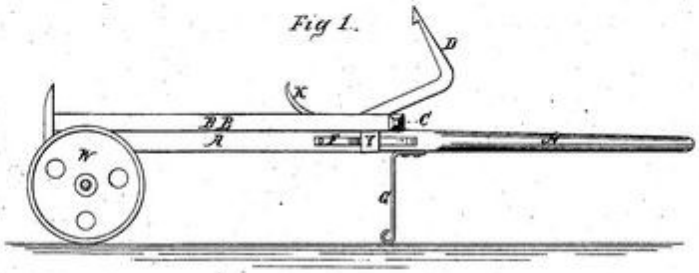
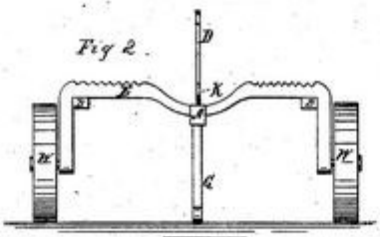
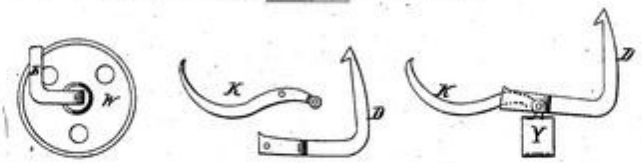


Fig 2.





Witnesses

T. D. George

Alex Habiston

Inventor

Thomas F. Kiff

116,325

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS F. KIFF, OF FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND-TRUCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 116,325, dated June 27, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS F. KIFF, of Fairbury, county of Livingston, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Trucks for handling boxes, barrels, bales, &c.

My invention consists of frame-work, axle, and, clamp-hooks, so arranged as to grasp, hold, and, with the aid of wheels, to easily move boxes, barrels, bales, &c.

Figure 1 is a side view. Fig. 2 are sectional views.

The frame-work, Fig. 1, consists of lever A, side pieces B B, cross-bar C with spring F, and foot G, as shown in the drawing. The axle E, Fig. 2, to which the frame-work is bolted, is bent and curved to form a concave lip for the reception of barrels, with corrugated ends for holding the lower part of articles to be moved. The adjustable clamp-hooks D K, connected by bolt with hasp Y, slide on lever A. The lower part K forms a fulcrum, when properly adjusted to the article to be moved, by drawing lever A toward you, at the same time pressing the axle to the article. This action draws the upper part of clamp D into the article, holding it firmly, while the corrugated part of the axle prevents the same from sliding.

I claim as my invention—

The combination of frame-work, axle E, and adjustable clamp-hooks D K, for the purpose set forth and described.

THOMAS F. KIFF.

Witnesses:
ALEX. HARBISON,
T. D. GEORGE.

While in Fairbury, T.D. George was a member of the Fairbury I.O.O.F Lodge. Mrs. George left $1,000 in her 1911 will to this lodge.

Another famous Fairbury citizen was Lorenzo B. Dominy who was born March 9, 184 and died on July 27, 1902. T.D. George was apparently friends of Mr. Dominy and traveled from Missouri to Fairbury to attend the funeral in 1902. It is unknown why T.D. George moved from Fairbury to Lamar, Missouri. It is possible T.D. George elected to retire in Missouri. He joined the Missouri I.O.O.F. in 1907 and died there May 27, 1907, at age 73. Mrs. George died March 7, 1913.

Since T.D. George was a builder, it is possible he built many different homes in Fairbury during his career as a builder.

Additional Documents

The last will and testament of Mrs. T.D. George:

In the Name of God, Amen:

I, Mary A. George of Lamar, Barton County, Missouri, being of sound mind and memory, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last Will And Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

First: I direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be first paid, including the expenses of my last illness.

Second: I direct that I shall be buried beside the body of my late husband, T. D. George, in Lake Cemetary, at Lamar, Barton County, Missouri.

Third: I give and bequeath to the Odd Fellows' Lodge at Fairbury, Illinois, One Thousand Dollars ($1000.00), to be accepted and used bye the Trustees of said Lodge in such manner and for such purposes as they may deem to the best advantage of said Lodge and I desire that the same shall be accepted and considered as a gift from my late husband, T. D. George, in rememberance of the many kindnesses shown him and myself by the members of said Lodge.

Fourth: I give and bequeath unto the Presbyterian Church of Fairbury, Illinois, One Thousand Dollars ($1000.00), the same to be accepted by the Trustees of said Church and used in such manner and for such purposes as the Trustees may deem to the best interests of said Church.

Fifth: I give and bequeath to my two nieces, Mrs. Anna Wordendike and Mrs. Ethel Skillman, the two daughters of my beloved sister, Margaret Evans, late of Hamilton, Ohio, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) each. I further give to each of said nieces one pair of double light colored Wool Blankets, one single Blanket and one Sheet.

Sixth: I give and bequeath to Myrtle Davis, Abner Davis and Anna Davis (said Anna Davis being now married, and whose name since marriage I am unable to give), all children of my beloved Brother, Ebeneezer Davis, late of Gomer, Ohio, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) each.

Seventh: I give and bequeath unto my beloved nieces, Mary Ann Clark, Margaret and Emma Clark, the three daughters of my beloved sister, Jane Clark, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) each.

Eighth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved nieces, Mrs. Ollie Andrews of near Carl Junction, Kansas and Nora Davis, who lives near Oswego, Kansas, both daughters of my beloved brother, Silas Davis, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars ($250.00) each. I further

give and bequeath to my said niece, Mrs. Ollie Andrews, all of my household goods and furniture not herein specifically devised, together with my Family Bible, Clock and Photograph Album.

Ninth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved nephew, Henry Davis, of Pontiac, Illinois, the sum of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)

Tenth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved niece, Clara Bennett, of Mount Carroll, Illinois, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), together with my Gold Watch and Chain, two big, square, feather Pillows and Shams and one Sheet.

Eleventh: I give and bequeath unto the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lamar, Barton County, Missouri, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), and direct the this money be used by the Trustees of said Church to the best advantage and interest of said church. However, I would prefer that the money be used to help build a new Parsonage.

Twelfth: I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Ethel Francis of Fairbury, Illinois, (formerly Ethel Carman) the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00), as a token of my regard for her, and my appreciation of the many kindnesses shown me.

Thirteenth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved niece by marriage, Mrs. Maude Evans, of Hamilton, Ohio, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00); also one pair of Black and White Double Woolen Blankets, one White Bedspread, and one pair of Pillows and Cases.

Fourteenth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved niece, Mrs. Alice Clark, of Hamilton, Ohio, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00), together with all my clothes; one big, red, wollen comforter; two small Pillows, and one Bolster and Cases.

Fifteenth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved niece, Mrs. Rhoda Davis, of Gomer, Ohio, the sum of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00); also all of my silver Knives and Forks and Spoons.

Sixteenth: I give and bequeath unto my beloved Grand-niece, Rachel Bennett, daughter of Clara Bennett, one Feather Bed.

Seventeenth: I give and bequeath unto Calvin Skillman, son of Ethel Skillman, one Feather Bed.

Eighteenth: I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Jennie McDonald, of Lamar, Missouri, one pair of red, all-wool, double blankets, and one wollen Comforter.

Nineteenth: I give and bequeath to Miss Ora E. Van Pelt, of Lamar, Missouri, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), in rememberance of the many kindnesses that she has shown me. And I further request that she look after the graves of myself and T. D. George, my late husband; reposing full confidence in her friendship for me that she will

properly attend to the same.

Twentieth: I hereby direct that, if, in any case, my estate should not be sufficient to pay all the bequests herein made, that the bequests to the Odd Fellows' Lodge, at Fairbury, Illinois; the bequest to the Presbyterian Church, at Fairbury, Illinois; and the bequest to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lamar, Barton County, Missouri, be first paid in full, and that they balance of the proceeds of my estate shall be proportioned among the other beneficiaries herein named, each legatee receiving his or her proportionate part of such remainder; that is, each legatee taking his or her share of my estate in the proportion which the bequest herein bears to the entire amount of the remainder of my estate after paying the bequests in full, as above directed. And in case that there should be more than enough to pay all of the bequests herein, I direct that my Executrix shall pay the surplus, over and above, to each of the beneficiaries herein, proportioning it among all of my bene!
ficiaries each in the proportion that their bequest bears to the entire amount of each surplus.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of March, A. D., 1911.

Mary A George (SEAL)

This foregoing instrument was, at the date hereof, signed, sealed and declared by the said Mary A. George to be her last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, at her request, and in her presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses hereof.

W A Evans

Maim L Shibley

Funeral of Lorenzo B. Dominy:

T.D. George is listed in the visitors from out-of-town who came to the funeral.....in the last paragraph

THE DEATH OF LORENZO B. DOMINY
Born March 9, 1844. Died July 27, 1902.
health and in 1893 Mr. Beach retired. The bank was conducted in Mr. Dominy's name until 1901, when his son-inlaws, G. Y. McDowell and W. R. Bane, were taken into partnership under the firm of L. B. Dominy and Company. The bank is today one of the most substantial financial institutions of the country.
"In 1892, he established a separate branch of his business dealing in farm mortgage investments, taking his son-inlaw Herbert Powell, into the partnership under the firm name Dominy and Powell. The business of the firm has grown, under careful management, beyond his earlier expectations. They have won the confidence of the farming community and eastern correspondents by their open and accurate dealings and maintained for Fairbury the reputation it has always sustained for real estate transactions.
"He was the first mayor of the city of Fairbury and served several terms as mayor and member of the city council. He also served the township several years as supervisor. At the time of his death he was school treasurer and treasurer of the fair association, positions which he has held for years.
"In his business transactions he was a man of prudence, safe and reliable. His advice upon business transactions was sought by many, and advice given by him was always found to be the best. He was liberal in his dealings with his fellow man, and many men owe their start in life to the financial aid and encouragement of Mr. Dominy. He will be sadly missed and the love and admiration for him will be retained by those who knew him through life.
"The remains were laid at rest in the Fairbury cemetery and were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people. The pallbearers were all tenants of his farms and were: L. S. Carter, John Frantz, William Frantz, Nathan Town, Bart Pearson, Peter Ulfers, J. J. Brown, and Amil Huber.

"Those from out of town were: Mr. Stoddard, Mononk; Mrs. Fern Opdyke, Morris; Mrs. T. E. Du Bois, and daughter Edna, Indianapolis; J. A. Montelius, Piper City; Si Belck, Peoria; Mt. and Mrs. George Winters, Peoria; S. B. Church, Peoria; J. A. Brown, G. W. McCabe, and S. Herr, Chatsworth; Fred Green, Emington; S. A. Hoyt, Forrest; H. L. Banes, Cropsey; T. C. Riley, Miss Birdie Trumbo, Marseilles; Mrs. Robert Riley, Forrest; T. D. George, Missouri; Mrs. B. F. Shankland, Mrs. F. Duckett, Pontiac; Mrs. and Mrs. Lansing Hutchinson, Sibley."
This sketch taken from The Record

Bio of Bert Slaughter and His Father

SLAUGHTER, Bert C, manager of the Illinois Card & Novelty Company. Fairbury, Livingston County. Ill., is a young man of varied and valuable business experience who is making a notable success in a field which be marked out for himself. In these days the man who has a knowledge of advertising and the ability to sell goods through the mails, is able, even from a small town, to so extend his operations as to make them include a very large territory, and specialties handled by such a man are pretty sure to find a wide sale. At the same time, such a business is one that should not be incautiously entered by any but the very elect. The knowledge upon which it must be based should be exact and comprehensive, and to win success in it the manager must have his finger constantly on the public pulse and know perfectly well that what each pulse-beat portends.

Bert C. Slaughter was born near Rossville, Vermilion County, 111., October 5, 1876, a son of S. E. Slaughter, now of Fairbury, a biographical sketch of whom appears in these pages. In 1882 he began to attend the district school near the place of his birth and, after he came to Fairbury, entered the local public school from which be was graduated with the class of 1897. Having acquired a knowledge of photography, in
which be became expert, he took a financial interest in a photographic business. Disposing of this, be was at Forrest a year and then, in 1898, bought a gallery at Odell, 111., which he was able to sell at a considerable advantage in 1900. Later, be accepted a position with Sweet, Wallach & Co., manufacturers and dealers in photo stock and supplies, Chicago, with -which concern he made such a sucess as an inside salesman that he was sent out as a commercial traveler, in which capacity he labored successfully six years, covering Illinois, Indiana, AVisconsin and Ohio.

Late in 1906 he resigned that position and. with Ro Bartlett, he organized in 1907 the Illinois, Card & Novelty Co., of Fairbury. They began business with machinery propelled entirely by foot power, and now all their presses are operated by electricity and their job printing office is supplied with all kinds of up-to-date machinery necessary in their business, which includes fancy job printing and the manufacture of cards, calendars and photo supplies. To this business Mr. Slaughter is peculiarly well adapted, both by experience and by artistic temperament, and under this management it is growing rapidly.

Mr. Slaughter married AMss Gertrude E. Bockwood, March 28, 1906. Miss Rockwood is a native of Illinois, and Ralph W. Rockwood, her father, Is manager of tbe Walton Brothers' Grocery department. She bore her husband a son— Ralph Edward—December 12,, 1907. She is a member of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Slaughter is a member of the Baptist church. A thoroughgoing Republican, be is active in
party work and always solicitous for the growth and prosperity of Fairbury.

SLAUGHTER, Stephen E., a retired farmer, living In Fairbury, 111., where he has been favorably known for many years, and a man who faithfully served the cause of the Union as a soldier in the Civil War, was born at Tremont, Tazewell County, HI., June 29, 1846. His parents were Richard and Phoebe (Britnell) Slaughter, natives of England who came

to the United States in 1844, locating in Chicago, where they
remained until 1846 when they moved to Tazewell Comity. There Richard Slaughter went to work at his trade of a cabinet-maker, which he had learned in England, having been bound out as an apprentice for seven years. He died iu the village of Tremont in 1849. Of the children born to him and his wife but one besides the subject of this sketch is now living, namely: Sarah, wife of William Wampler, of Ellsworth, McLean County, 111.; Phoebe (Britnell) Slaughter, now deceased, was married in 1853, to Hiram Warner, a leading citizen of Tazewell County, by whom she had one son, Fred W. Warner, a resident of Philip, S. Dakota.

Stephen E. Slaughter received his education in the common schools, remaining on the home farm until 1864, and, in September of that year, enlisting in Company A, One Hundred and Eighth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was under fire for thirteen days at Spanish Port, La., where his regiment captured a number of prisoners and Mr. Slaughter was detailed among others to take charge of them, although then but eighteen years of age and of small stature. At Vicksburg in August, 1865, his regiment was mustered out and received an honorable discharge at Chicago, 111.

Returning to Tazewell County he applied himself to farm work for a time, and then, after attending school a year, obtained work as clerk in a store in Tremont. In 1867 he resumed farm work, continuing thus until the time of his marriage, November 19, 1870. On that date he was wedded, to Elva M. Amsbury, who was born in the vicinity of Tremont, April 5, 1853, a daughter of Andrew J. Amsbury. She was an old schoolmate of her husband. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Slaughter bought a farm in Vermillion County, 111., and there followed farming until 1883. On that farm their three children were born, namely: Ethel K., born December 1, 1871, who married Arthur Farr, a farmer, of Golden City, Mo.; Herbert C, born October 5. 1876, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere In this volume; and Emma E., born January 11.
1883; who is the wife of Albert L. Perry, of Kansas City, Mo., bookkeeper In the Western Electric Company.

In 1884 Mr. Slaughter sold his farm, taking up his residence in Fairbury, 111., where he was engaged in the butchering business for eight years, in partnership with Mrs. L. J. Pfau. In 1892 be sold his interest in this concern and went into the grocery business in connection with a Mr. Albert Sutton who later sold out to Albert Swapp. In the latter part of 1893 Mr. Slaughter sold out, when he engaged in the real estate business, buying and selling farms. He now owns thirty-three acres of land in Livingston County and 120 in Shelby County, all desirable property.

For twenty-five years, Mr. Slaughter has been a resident of Fairbury, taking an earnest interest in the growth and welfare of the city. He owns a comfortable home, and, after a busy life, has withdrawn from active pursuits and is living in contented retirement. He gave his children a good education and has been mindful of all his duties as a husband, father and citizen. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Aaron Welder Post No. 75, and in politics, has always supported the Republican party.

From Vol 2of the 1909 History Book

Bio of Thomas A. Beach

BEACH, Thomas A., retired farmer, merchant and banker, of Fairbury, Livingston County, 1LL. It is probable that no man in Livingston County
has more reason to regard with satisfaction his years that are behind him, than the subject of this sketch. The years of Mr. Beach's life have been busy ones, full of usefulness and good will to men. They have brought him much success, not only from a worldly, but also from a moral point of view, because their triumphs have resulted from honest endeavor and square dealing. Few men have exerted a better influence upon the destiny of Fairbury or upon the individual interests of its citizens of all classes.

Thomas A. Beach was born in Amity, Madison County, Ohio, December 4. 1828, a son of Dr. Lorenzo and Edith (Bull) Beach, of Vermont and
New York respectively. The American family of Beach is of English ancestry and its progenitors were among the colonial settlers. In all generations
they have been patriotic, progressive and thrifty. In 1856, when Thomas A. Beach was about twenty-eight years old, his father and mother came to Illinois and settled on a farm near Fairbury. Later they moved into the village, where Lorenzo Beach died August 9, 1878, his wife having preceded him September 13, 1874.

To them four children were born, named respectively: James, Chloe, Hester, and Thomas A. Chloe became the wife of Dr. Cicero C. Bartlett, a biographical sketch of whom appears in this work, and she died some years since. Hester married Ezra Dominy, who died in Ohio. Their son, L. B. Dominy came to Fairbury, where he died after having won more than local distinction as a financier and man of affairs. His widow is living in Fairbury.

Thomas A. Beach gained his education in the public schools and in the old academic institution at Westervelt, Ohio. He married Miss Amelia Bartlett, April 8, 1852. Miss Bartlett was a sister of Dr. Cicero C. Bartlett, who was long connected with important interests in Livingston County. In 1854 Mr. Beach decided to go west.

Notwithstanding his father warned him that he might not make a satisfactory success in the Illinois country, he adhered to his purpose. Land was cheaper in Illinois than in Ohio and the young man wanted more land. He came by way of Toledo, Ohio, to Pontiac, 1LL., and thence over the prairies to Fairbury, arriving in August, 1854, and began farming two and a half -miles south of the then small village. The site of Fairbury was then literally in the tall prairie grass. He bought 280 acres of land and a small house which he moved on his land. During the winter months it was not an uncommon occurrence for him to
get up early in the morning and sweep out great ridges and patches of snow that the wind had driven in through cracks during the night. Buying three yoke of oxen, he began to break his land, and as soon as possible he got in his crop, consisting principally of spring wheat, of which he had a yield of from thirty-five to forty bushels an acre. His almost

immediate success was so great that he was not at all reticent about it when writing to friends back in Ohio, who had thought it possible that he might score a failure.

His first tax receipt in Illinois, dated in 1856, was for $17.21 on his 280 acres of land and $3.52 on his personal property. An interesting comparison
between values then and now may be derived from the fact that, in 1908, his taxes amounted to more than two thousand dollars and his school tax to one thousand. In 1862 he left the farm and has since maintained a home in Fairbury, where he embarked in merchandising as a member of the firm of Pogue and Beach, proprietors of a general store. After about five years' success in that business, he engaged in the hardware trade for about fifteen years. Meanwhile, in 1873, as a member of the firm of Bartlett, Beach & Downing, he embarked in the banking business.

After the death of Cicero C. Bartlett, the business was continued twenty years by Beach & Downing, who were succeeded by the Bank of Fairbury,
which is operated by Powell and Bane. The old bank mentioned was long one of the strong financial institutions of Central Illinois.

In a business way Mr. Beach has perhaps been as successful as any man in the county. He yet owns 260 acres of the land that he bought in 1854, which, with subsequent purchases, makes an aggregate of about 3,000 acres. In politics he was originally a Whig and, upon the organization of the Republican party, he naturally allied himself with that organization, and has ever since exerted himself patriotically for the promotion of its policies. He has never been an office-seeker, and has never accepted office except with the conviction that, by so doing, he could advance the interests of his community. His solicitude for the advancement of the schools impelled him to accept a position on the Board of Education, in which he faithfully served fifteen years. He was for one year Chairman of his Town Board. He is a member of tbe Masonic fraternity and he and his wife have, for many years, been helpfully identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Diligent in all things, honest in all things and temperate in ail things, he is in every sense of the word a public spirited citizen, strenuous and liberal in his support of all measures which, in his opinion, promise to benefit any considerable class in the community. His home is one of the finest and most pleasant in the town, and is widely noted for generous and genial hospitality.

On the 8th of April, 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Beach celebrated the fifty-sixth anniversary of their marriage. Mrs. Beach was born in Hamilton County. Ohio, July 9, 1828. She has borne her husband four children, who are here mentioned in the order of their birth: Sarah, born January 29, 1853, died aged fourteen; Chloe, born March 28, 1854, died when twenty-one years old; another child died in infancy; Ella, born February 8, 1862, was married May 16. 1883, to
Dr. G. C. Lewis, a prominent practicing physician of Fairbury. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis are: Thomas Beach, horn November 12. 1884,
graduated in law at the University of Illinois in 1908; Mamie Beach, born December 9, 1886, graduated at Washington College, Washington, D.C, in 1906; and Alma Eloise, born November 12, 1899.

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